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# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

**New-England Anti-Slavery Society :**

TOGETHER WITH ITS

**BY-LAWS,**

AND

**A LIST OF ITS OFFICERS.**

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## P R E A M B L E .

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We, the undersigned, hold that every person, of full age and sane mind, has a right to immediate freedom from personal bondage of whatsoever kind, unless imposed by the sentence of the law for the commission of some crime.

We hold that man cannot, consistently with reason, religion, and the eternal and immutable principles of justice, be the property of man.

We hold that whoever retains his fellow-man in bondage is guilty of a grievous wrong.

We hold that a mere difference of complexion is no reason why any man should be deprived of any of his natural rights, or subjected to any political disability.

While we advance these opinions as the principles on which we intend to act, we declare that we will not operate on the existing relations of society by other

than peaceful and lawful means, and that we will give no countenance to violence or insurrection.

With these views, we agree to form ourselves into a Society, and to be governed by the rules, specified in the following Constitution, viz :

### CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Society shall be called the New-England Anti-Slavery Society.

ART. 2. The objects of the Society shall be to endeavor, by all means sanctioned by law, humanity and religion, to effect the abolition of slavery in the United States, to improve the character and condition of the free people of color, to inform and correct public opinion in relation to their situation and rights, and obtain for them equal civil and political rights and privileges with the whites.

ART. 3. Any person by signing the Constitution, and paying to the Treasurer fifteen dollars as a life subscription, or two dollars annually, shall be considered a member of the Society, and entitled to a voice and vote in all its meetings, and to a copy of any publications or communications, which may be distributed among its members. Honorary members may be chosen by a vote of the Society.

ART. 4. There shall be an annual meeting of the Society on the second Wednesday in January, at which

a report of the transactions of the Society for the past year, and of its income, expenditures and funds shall be presented by the Board of Managers, and the following officers elected by ballot, viz. A President, two Vice Presidents, six Counsellors, a Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary, who shall hold their respective offices until the next annual meeting.

ART. 5. The said twelve officers shall together constitute a board of Managers, to whom shall be entrusted the disposition of the funds, and the management of the concerns of the Society. They shall have power to fill any vacancy, which may occur in their board until the next meeting of the Society, and it shall be their duty to consider and adopt the means best calculated to promote the objects of the Society, and report the same to the Society.

ART. 6. Meetings of the Managers may be called by the President, or in his absence by either of the Vice Presidents, when they shall judge it necessary, or on application to them from any one of the Managers for any specific purpose ; and special meetings of the Society may be called by vote of the Managers, or on application of the members of the Society to the Recording Secretary, and the time and place of the meetings of the Society shall be determined by the Managers.

ART. 7. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Managers ; in his absence, one of the Vice Presidents ; and in their absence, the oldest Manager present.

ART. 8. The Treasurer shall collect the subscriptions and grants to the Society, and hold all its funds, and make payments according to the votes of the Managers, and he shall keep a true account of the same, and render an annual statement to accompany the annual report to the Society.

ART. 9. The Corresponding Secretary shall receive and keep all communications or publications, directed to the Society, and transmit those issued by them, and shall correspond with the agents, or any other bodies or individuals according to the directions of the Society or the Managers.

ART. 10. The Recording Secretary shall notify all meetings of the Society, and of the Board of Managers, and shall keep the Records of the same, and of the transactions of the Society, and shall furnish copies of any votes to any persons, when required by the President, or a Vice President.

ART. 11. The Board of Managers may appoint an agent, or agents, to be employed in any part of the United States, in obtaining or communicating intelligence, in the publication or distribution of tracts, books, or papers, or in the execution of any measure, which may be adopted, to promote the objects of the



Society. The compensation of the agents shall be determined by the Board of Managers.

ART. 12. Any Anti-Slavery Society, or any association founded on kindred principles, in the New-England States, may become auxiliary to this Society, by contributing to its funds, and by sending a delegate or delegates to attend its meetings.

ART. 13. There shall be a regular meeting of the Society on the last Monday of every month.

ART. 14. The Constitution may be altered at any annual meeting, by a vote of two thirds of those present.

## BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE 1. All addresses shall be made to the Chair, and no member of the Society shall be interrupted while speaking, except for the purpose of calling to order, or to correct a misstatement.

ART. 2. No member shall speak, unless upon a motion before the meeting, without permission of the presiding officer.

ART. 3. When two motions are presented at the same time, or two members of the Society shall arise simultaneously to address the Chair, the President shall decide which shall take precedence.

ART. 4. A motion indefinitely to postpone shall take precedence of all other motions.

ART. 5. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order.

ART. 6. No motion shall be put twice, unless a reconsideration is called for ; and such motion for reconsideration shall be always in order.

ART. 7. If the presiding officer wishes to make remarks on any motion before the Society, he shall appoint some person to occupy his place while he is speaking.

ART. 8. The Corresponding Secretary shall lay before the Society, at each meeting, a report of his correspondence and labors in behalf of the Society.

ART. 9. The Recording Secretary shall read at the commencement of each meeting the proceedings of the last.

ART. 10. In all meetings of the Society, regularly notified, one fourth of the whole number of members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

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## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT.

ARNOLD BUFFUM.

JAMES C. ODIORNE, *1st Vice-President.*

ALONZO LEWIS, *2d Vice-President.*

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

JOSHUA COFFIN.

TREASURER.

MICHAEL H. SIMPSON.

COUNSELLORS.

MOSES THACHER,  
JOHN E. FULLER,  
OLIVER JOHNSON,

ROBERT B. HALL,  
BENJAMIN C. BACON,  
JOHN STIMPSON.



